

**Envoy Hopeful
Cuba May Set
Prisoners Free**

CPYRGHT

A conviction that the Communist government of Cuba might be persuaded to set free for humanitarian considerations the more than 1,100 rebel prisoners held since last year's abortive invasion was expressed here Monday night by James B. Donovan, New York attorney who returned a week ago from direct negotiations in Cuba.

Mr. Donovan, breaking his silence on details of the negotiations with the government of Premier Fidel Castro, said the prisoners' release was "not a question of exchange, not a question of ransom, and not a question of tribute."

Mr. Donovan was chosen by the Cuban Families Committee for Liberation of prisoners of War to carry on the negotiations.

He suggested that the Cuban government would bow to humanitarian considerations and send the prisoners back because of the compelling need for "requisites" which his organization could furnish, such as "food and medicines, for Cuban infants, children, the sick and the aged."

Mr. Donovan talked of his secret trip to Cuba as he left a meeting of the Committee for Democratic Voters at the Belmont Plaza Hotel. He is an announced candidate for the Democratic nomination for the United States Senate.